

Guahibo language

Guahibo, the native language of the Guahibo people, is a Guahiban language that is spoken by about 23,006 people in Colombia and additional 8,428 in Venezuela. There is a 40% rate of monolingualism, and a 45% literacy rate.

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Sounds

Stress

Guahibo has a unique and complex stress system with both primary and secondary stress. The stress system shows a sensitivity to syllable weight so that heavy syllables are always stressed. Both contrasting trochaic and iambic patterns are found on morphemes in nonfinal morphemes with more than two syllables:

| Trochaic | Iambic |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (LL)(LL) | (L'L)(L'L) |
| <i>mátacàbi</i> "day" | <i>tulíquisì</i> "bead necklace" |

The binary feet are parsed from left to right within each morpheme. Morphemes with an odd number of syllables leave the final syllable unstressed (and unparsed into feet):

| Trochaic | Iambic |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (LL)L | (L'L)L |
| <i>wánali</i> "crystal" | <i>wayáfo</i> "savannah" |
| (LL)(LL)L | (L'L)(L'L)L |
| <i>pàlupáluma</i> "rabbit" | <i>culèmayúwa</i> "species of turtle" |

Morphemes that consist of two syllables and are also word-final are an exception to the above and only have the trochaic pattern:

| Trochaic | Iambic (with reversal) |
|---------------|------------------------|
| (LL) | (LL) |

| Guahibo | |
|-----------------|--|
| <i>Jiwi</i> | |
| Native to | Colombia, Venezuela |
| Region | Casanare, eastern Meta, Vichada, Guaviare, Guainia states (Colombia) Orinoco River (Venezuela) |
| Native speakers | 34,000 (1998–2001) ^[1] |
| Language family | <div>Guahiban <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guahibo</div> |
| Language codes | |
| ISO 639-3 | Either: guh – Guahibo gob – Playero (Pepojivi) |
| Glottolog | guah1254 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/guah1254) ^[2] |

náwa "grass fire" *púca* "lake"

These morphemes alternate with an iambic pattern when placed in a nonfinal context. Thus *náwa* keeps its trochaic pattern with the addition of a single light syllable morpheme like *-ta* "in":

náwa + *-ta* → *náwata* ('LL)L

However, an iambic word shows its underlying iamb when it is followed by *-ta*:

púca + *-ta* → *pucáta* (L'L)L

Affixation generally does not affect the stress pattern of each morpheme.

Heavy syllables since they are required to be stressed disrupt perfect trochaic and iambic rhythms. However, morphemes with a sequence of at least two light syllables show contrasting stress patterns:

| Trochaic | Iambic |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ('LL)('H) | (L'L)('H) |
| <i>nónoĵi</i> "hot peppers" | <i>jútabâi</i> "motmot" |

Primary Stress. Primary stress generally falls on the rightmost nonfinal foot. For example, the following word

(, LL)('LL)L (*pà.lu*).(*pá.lu*).*ma* "rabbit"

has primary stress on the rightmost foot (*pa.lu*) which is not word-final. However, the rightmost foot (*qui.si*) in

(L 'L)(L , L) (*tu.lí*).(*qui.sì*) "bead necklace"

is word-final and cannot receive primary stress; the primary stress then falls on the next rightmost foot (*tu.li*). Placing a light syllable suffix *-ta* "with" after a four syllable root shows shifting of primary stress:

(L 'L)(L , L) *tsapánilù* "species of turtle"
(L , L)(L 'L)L *tsapànilúta* "with the turtle"

With the addition of the suffix, the root-final foot (*ni.lu*) is no longer word-final and is subsequently permitted to accept primary stress.

Phonology

Consonants

| | | <u>Bilabial</u> | <u>Alveolar</u> | <u>Palatal</u> | <u>Velar</u> | <u>Glottal</u> |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| <u>Plosive</u> | plain | p | t | | k | |
| | aspirated | | t ^h | | | |
| | voiced | b | d | | | |
| <u>Fricative</u> | | ɸ | s | | x | h |
| <u>Trill</u> | | | r | | | |
| <u>Affricate</u> | | | ts | | | |
| <u>Nasal</u> | | m | n | | | |
| <u>Lateral</u> | | | l | | | |
| <u>Approximant</u> | | w~β | | j | | |

A /w/ sound can also range to a /β/ sound within words.

Vowels^{[3][4]}

| | <u>Front</u> | <u>Central</u> | <u>Back</u> |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| <u>Close</u> | i | ɨ (ë) | u |
| <u>Mid</u> | e~ɛ (e) | | o |
| <u>Open</u> | | a~ə (a) | |

Vowels can also be nasalized as [ã ã ã õ ã ã].^[3]

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Playero (Pepojivi) (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/gob/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Guahibo–Playero" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/guah1254>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Kondo, Victor, Riena (1967). *Phonemic Systems of Colombian Languages* (https://archive.org/details/rosettaproject_guh_phon-1).
4. Kondo, Riena W. (1985). *From Phonology to Discourse: Studies in six Colombian languages* (https://archive.org/details/rosettaproject_guh_phon-2). Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics.

External links

- (in Spanish) [Luis Angel Arango Library: Diagnóstico sociolingüístico de Cumaribo, zona de contacto indígena – Colono, Vichadaby Héctor Ramírez Cruz](http://www.lablaa.org/blaavirtual/tesis/unal/linguist/lin1-60.pdf) (<http://www.lablaa.org/blaavirtual/tesis/unal/linguist/lin1-60.pdf>)
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